

May 17, 1999

STATUS OF THE
Indiana GIS Initiative

In 1997, thirty-nine State agency commissioners, state and local government elected officials, not-for-profit organization officers, corporate executives, research and education professionals, and individuals from Federal agencies signed the *Indiana GIS Initiative Commitment to Success*. This effort documents broad-based support "to promote statewide acquisition, coordination, and use of geographical information systems."

Responding to an increased demand for coordination of Indiana's geospatial resources, the ad-hoc Indiana GIS Initiative committee restructured with a focus toward implementation. A steering committee was formed in March 1999 to direct the group's efforts and develop a plan for action.

The result has been the recently adopted **objectives**:

"Coordination of Indiana GIS through:

- a. dissemination of data and data products**
- b. education and outreach**
- c. building partnerships**
- d. adoption of standards"**

The following technical subcommittees are now developing project plans:

1. **Web development** subcommittee - Target: to address GIS clearinghouse web design, database, and data distribution issues and identify resource needs.
2. **Metadata** subcommittee - Target: to coordinate, facilitate, and educate on documenting GIS data sets; develop an initial data inventory and assist with metadata development; and, plan web-based metadata clearinghouse implementation, funded for 1999-2000.
3. **Education** - Target: to organize an Indiana 2000 GIS conference and coordinate with other GIS education groups.
4. **Networking** subcommittee - Target: to identify communication mechanisms for networking and to develop a "Who's Who" in Indiana GIS.
5. **Standards** subcommittee - Target: to identify standards we should address, identify standards we should not address, and prioritize standards we should address.

Our vision for the dissemination of geographic information in Indiana is comprehensive in addressing the needs of multiple communities. Our vision utilizes advanced web technologies for a distributed network of benefactors. The Indiana GIS Initiative steering committee is currently developing an action plan that proposes an organizational structure and identifies the resources needed to fulfill the mission of GIS data distribution. The success of this effort will ultimately depend on a commitment of resources and recognition of a "body" responsible for implementation and maintenance.